

Advocacy in Action

April 2016

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FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Join fellow PTA members across our state in preparing the WA State PTA Legislative Platform. Every two years, Washington State PTA votes in a legislative platform that includes a “Top 5” and designates other issues that it considers timely. This is a critical process that starts with proposal submissions. If you are interested in submitting a proposal visit: <http://www.bellevueptsacouncil.com/engage-in-legislative-process.html> or email bellevueptsacouncil@gmail.com.

Your topic and a brief description must be submitted by May 1, 2016. Full Legislative Issue Proposals are due on June 1, 2016. This is a great opportunity to establish advocacy priorities that support the well-being and education of ALL children in our state.

APRIL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 12 and April 19

4:00pm

Wilburton Instructional Service Center (WISC)
Rainer Room
12241 Main Street
Bellevue, WA 98005

The Agenda and Board Packet are posted [here](#). You can make public comment at the board meeting on issues of concern or you can email the board at board@bsd405.org.

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2016 Legislative Session and special session have come to an end. You can learn more about what happened during the session and how it ended through the WA State PTA Legislative Consultant's blog [here](#).

Two particular issues of importance to be aware are:

- The **Levy Cliff** bills ([HB 2698](#) or [SB 6353](#)) that would have extended current levy policy for at least one more year to allow for the Legislature to address basic education obligations (especially teacher compensation). While neither bill passed, a budget proviso was included in the final supplemental budget that basically puts the 2017 legislature on the hook to deal with both of these items by April 30, 2017. Check out [2ESHB 2376](#), Section 515 for the exact wording.
- **Teacher/Substitute Shortage** ([SB 6455](#)) providing several short and medium-term policy actions intended to help alleviate teacher shortage issues. The bill was signed in its entirety as it passed the legislature.

Learn about all bills related to WA State PTA's Legislative Platform issues [here](#).

INTERESTED IN ENGAGING ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES?

FIND OUT YOUR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT [HERE](#).

CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS:

41st District Legislators:

[Senator Steve Litzow](#)

[Representative Judy Clibborn](#)

[Representative Tana Senn](#)

48th District Legislators:

[Senator Cyrus Habib](#)

[Representative Patty Kuderer](#)

[Representative Joan McBride](#)

GET CONNECTED

- Engage in the WA State Top 5 Platform issues [here](#).
- Find education related bills [here](#).
- Review Special Education specific bills are [here](#).
- Check out the WA State Legislature page is [here](#). Learn how to comment on bills [here](#).
- Find easy-to-access interactive budgets along with agency summary documents and spreadsheets [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

The Bellevue School District has many advisory and instructional materials committees. Learn more about them, learn how you can participate, and review meeting minutes [here](#).